

*a1*  
*cont*  
threshold, and to recouple the power supply to the line circuit responsive to a predetermined time interval having passed.--

--11. (Amended) A method of protecting a line circuit connected to a telephone subscriber line and to a separate power supply from an over-voltage condition, the over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined voltage threshold value, comprising the steps of:

- a2*
- a) checking for a presence of the over-voltage condition;
  - b) starting, responsive to the over-voltage condition being present, a first timer of predetermined duration;
  - c) disconnecting, responsive to the timer having expired and to the over-voltage condition being present, the line circuit from the power supply and from the telephone subscriber line;
  - d) waiting a predetermined amount of time; and
  - e) reconnecting the line circuit to the power supply and to the telephone subscriber line.--

*a3*  
--16. (Amended) A method of protecting a line circuit connected to a telephone subscriber line and to a separate power supply from positive and negative over-voltage conditions, the positive over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined positive voltage threshold value and the negative over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined negative voltage threshold value, comprising the steps of: